

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-01 MC-02 ACDA-05

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R 201942Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7730

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 07171

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S LUNCH WITH UDR OFFICIALS

SUMMARY: AS ONE OF MY SERIES OF GET-ACQUAINTED MEETINGS WITH FRENCH POLITICAL LEADERS' I INVITED A GROUP OF HIGH UDR (GAULLIST) OFFICIALS TO LUNCH MARCH 19. WE HELD AN ANIMATED BUT ALWAYS FRIENDLY DISCUSSION OF THE MAJOR BONES OF CONTENTION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE. WE ALSO REVIEWED FRANCO-AMERICAN AND WESTERN EUROPEAN HISTORY AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS SINCE WORLD WAR II. THE OVERALL CONCLUSION WAS ONE OF GENERAL SATISFACTION ON THE PART OF MY GUESTS WITH GISCARD'S POLICY LINE, AND EXPRESSIONS OF MUTUAL HOPE THAT INEVITABLE FRANCO-AMERICAN DIFFICULTIES IN THE FUTURE CAN BE HANDLED WITH MORE MUTUAL GRACE AND UNDERSTANDING THAN WAS THE CASE WHEN JOBERT WAS FOREIGN MINISTER. END SUMMARY.

1. MY LUNCHEON GUESTS WERE: ALBIN CHALANDON, UDR DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL FOR POLITICAL ACTION; JEAN DE LIPKOWSKI, UDR NATIONAL DELEGATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS; CONFIDENTIAL

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LUCIEN NEUWIRTH, UDR DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL FOR

COORDINATION; AND CLAUDE LABBE, PRESIDENT OF THE UDR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY GROUP. DE LIPKOWSKI, WHO SERVED AS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN THE LATE 1960'S AND AGAIN BETWEEN 1972 AND 1974, DID MOST OF THE TALKING.

2. OUR DISCUSSION CONSISTED MAINLY OF A TOUR D'HORIZON OF THE CURRENT STATE OF WORLD AFFAIRS, FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND THE FRENCH INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION. ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MY GUESTS EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN AT THE UNSTABLE POLITICAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL AND THE THREAT OF EQUAL INSTABILITY IN SPAIN. I REPLIED THAT I SHARED THEIR FEARS, AND OBSERVED THAT SIMILAR DANGER COULD BE SEEN IN THE COUNTRIES ALONG THE NORTHERN COAST OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA: ITALY, YUGOSLAVIA, GREECE AND TURKEY.

3. MY GUESTS WERE ELOQUENT IN THEIR APPRECIATION FOR AMERICA'S DEVOTION TO EUROPE DURING AND AFTER WORLD WAR II (ALL FOUR OF THEM HAD FOUGHT SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH AMERICAN SOLDIERS DURING THE WAR). THEY EXPRESSED CONCERN AT SIGNS OF INCIPIENT AMERICAN ISOLATIONISM. I WONDERED ALOUD HOW SUCH FEARS COULD BE SQUARED WITH THE OLD GAULLIST BOGEYMAN OF AMERICAN "DOMINATION" OF EUROPE. REVIEWING AMERICA'S SUPPORT OF ALL EFFORTS ON THE PART OF EUROPEANS SINCE WORLD WAR II TO REGAIN THEIR STRENGTH AND TO UNITE, I ASKED HOW MY GUESTS COULD BELIEVE THAT THE US DID NOT WANT A STRONG AND UNIFIED EUROPE. SUCH A EUROPE IS A VITAL STRATEGIC AMERICAN INTEREST; ITS ABSENCE IS A SOURCE OF CONCERN TO THE UNITED STATES.

4. MY GUESTS AGREED THAT A UNITED EUROPE OF APPROXIMATELY EQUAL ECONOMIC AND MILITARY WEIGHT TO THAT OF THE UNITED STATES WAS NECESSARY. THEY THEN STRESSED THAT CERTAIN AMERICAN ACTIONS, HOWEVER, HAD BEEN INTERPRETED IN FRANCE AS INDICATING A DESIRE TO CALL ALL THE SHOTS. THEY CITED, FOR EXAMPLE, US EFFORTS TO CORNER THE MARKET ON REPLACEMENT FIGHTER AIRCRAFT FOR THE F-104 AND THE US PLAN TO INTRODUCE A FLOOR PRICE FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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PETROLEUM.

5. I REPLIED THAT IF THE UNITED STATES HAD IN FACT INTENDED FOR EUROPE TO REMAIN SUBSERVIENT TO THE UNITED STATES IT WOULD NEVER HAVE INAUGURATED THE MARSHALL PLAN. I REMINDED MY GUESTS THAT AMERICAN CORPORATIONS HAD NOT EVEN BEEN PERMITTED UNDER THE MARSHALL PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN US GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED RECONSTRUCTION

OF EUROPE. FURTHERMORE, IN MANY AREAS OF ENDEAVOR
EUROPEAN COMPANIES WERE NOW AT OR NEAR ECONOMIC PARITY
WITH THEIR AMERICAN COMPETITORS. WHY WAS IT NOT
POSSIBLE, THEREFORE, TO REGARD THE F-104 REPLACEMENT
COMPETITION AS AN HONEST AND BUSINESSLIKE EFFORT TO FIND
THE BEST PLANE; THE UNITED STATES, AFTER ALL, HAD NOT
HESITATED TO BUY EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT WHEN THEY SEEMED

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R 201942Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7731

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 07171

BEST SUITED FOR THE JOB AT HAND.

6. MY GUESTS AGREED THAT FROM AN IDEAL STANDPOINT SUCH
FRIENDLY COMPETITION WAS NOT ONLY DESIRABLE BUT NECESSARY
IF THE US AND EUROPE WERE EVER TO PLAY APPROXIMATELY
EQUAL ROLES ON THE WORLD STAGE. THEY NOTED, HOWEVER,
THAT EUROPEANS REMAIN SENSITIVE ABOUT THE UNITED STATES'
SIZE AND PREPONDERANT ECONOMIC POWER. I OBSERVED THAT
UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES EUROPEANS SHOULD BE MORE
CONCERNED AT POTENTIAL US RENUNCIATION OF ITS WORLD
ROLE RATHER THAN BY ALLEGED AMERICAN ATTEMPTS TO

"DOMINATE" EUROPE.

7. COMMENT. THESE GAULLIST LEADERS ARE CLEARLY MORE
"EUROPEAN" AND LESS PARANOID ABOUT US "HEGEMONY" THAN
THE "BARONS" WHO FORMERLY CONTROLLED THE UDR. I WAS
IMPRESSED BY THEIR READINESS FOR FULL AND FRANK DISCUS-
SION OF ISSUES ON WHICH OUR TWO COUNTRIES DO NOT SEE
EYE TO EYE. THIS AUGURS WELL FOR OUR DEVELOPING A
CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH A CHIRAC-LED UDR.
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INCIDENTALLY, THESE UDR LEADERS ARE VERY LOYAL TO CHIRAC,
WHO I SUSPECT HAS NO TROUBLE DOMINATING THEM.
RUSH

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